

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00710 110918Z

12

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 MCT-01

/073 W

----- 072810

R 101320Z SEP 76  
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4125  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
COMIDEASTFOR  
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA  
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI  
CNO WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL ASMARA 0710

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS SIGHTED WITH ELF

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED THAT AN ETHIOPIAN PASTOR, WHO WAS  
MAKING THE ROUNDS OF HIS PARISHIONERS, OBSERVED TWO CAUCASIAN  
MALES IN THE VILLAGE OF ZAZIGA, 22 KMS WNW OF ASMARA ALONG THE

ABANDONED RAILROAD LINE TO KEREN. THE TWO WERE IDENTIFIED TO THE  
PASTOR AS JOURNALISTS "EITHER AMERICAN OR GERMAN" (OR ACCORDING  
TO LATER INFORMATION, POSSIBLY SWedes) WHO HAD BEEN ESCORTED TO  
ZAZIGA BY THE ELF IN ORDER TO PHOTOGRAPH THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00710 110918Z

VILLAGE BY AMERICAN-MANUFACTURED AIRCRAFT. THE PASTOR SAID ONLY

THAT THE TWO JOURNALISTS WERE DRESSED FOR TRAVELLING IN THE COUNTRY AND WERE, IN FACT, ARMED WITH CAMERAS. THE PASTOR NEVER APPROACHED THE JOURNALISTS AND THEREFORE DID NOT HEAR IN WHAT LANGUAGE THEY WERE TALKING.

2. THE ALLEGED PURPOSE OF THE JOURNALISTS VISIT WAS TO FILM SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY EAF BOMBING AND COMPARE THOSE SCENES WITH LATER PICTURES OF THE ELF ASSISTING THE VILLAGERS IN REPAIRING THE DAMAGE. THE VILLAGERS SEEMED TO GRASP FULLY THE PROPAGANDA THRUST OF THE EXERCISE AND TO HAVE NO OBJECTION.

3. REQUEST INFORMATION ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON POSSIBILITY AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS MAY HAVE SLIPPED INTO ERITREA RECENTLY.

SLUTZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LIBERATION FRONTS, JOURNALISTS, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ASMARA00710  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760343-1038  
**From:** ASMARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760975/aaaaclrj.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JOURNALISTS SIGHTED WITH ELF  
**TAGS:** PINS, ET, ELF  
**To:** STATE ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006